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SOME CURRENT REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES IN APPROVING DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS.

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SIXTY-FIVE U.S. INSTITUTIONS WITH PH.D. PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH AS OF 1960 RESPONDED TO A SURVEY OF REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES FOR APPROVING DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS. A BRIEF TABULATION OF RESULTS REVEALS HOW MANY READERS ARE USED FOR EACH DISSERTATION, WHETHER THIS NUMBER IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OR THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, AND WHAT DEGREE OF UNANIMITY IS REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL. THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN "THE CDE BULLETIN," NUMBER 1, MARCH 1964, PAGE 4. (BN)

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## SOME CURRENT REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES IN APPROVING DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Robert W. Rogers, editor

In a recent survey of certain regulations and practices in the approving of doctoral dissertations, a brief questionnaire was sent to the eighty U.S. institutions that had Ph.D. programs in English as of 1960; sixty-five have replied. The questions sought to reveal how many readers are used for each dissertation, whether this number is a requirement of the Graduate School or of the English Department, and what degree of unanimity is required for approval. The respondents fall into six groups, according to number of readers required:

| Group: Number of readers | Number of universities in group | Number of universities in which number of readers is a rule of the Graduate School | Number of universities in which unanimous approval is required |
|---|---|---|---|
| I: 5-7 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| II: 5 | 16 | 13 | 7 |
| III: 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| IV: 3-5 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| V: 3 | 26 | 14 | 21 |
| VI: 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 |

Some explanations and observation might include the Following: Group IV is rather heterogeneous, with widely varying flexible arrangements; in only one of the nine institutions in this group is the system based on a rule of the Graduate School. The percentage of the institutions in which a rule of the Graduate School operates is notably higher in Groups I, II, III, than in Groups IV, V, VI. Unanimous approval is naturally required in a greater percentage of the universities in Group V and VI; several departments replied that unanimous approval is required or "always achieved". Over half of the universities fall into Groups V and VI. Group I consists of Columbia; Group VI consists of The Catholic University, Chicago, Harvard, Indiana, Princeton, Rochester, and Virginia.

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